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PROGRAM 11 PM Report

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HELMS AND FULBRIGHT INTERVIEWED

TONY SYLVESTER: "Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms publicly apologized today for a letter that got him in trouble with the U.S. Senate and brought a demand for his resignation. His letter to the St. Louis Globe Democrat praised an editorial that was severely critical of Chairman J. William Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Today, the 53 year old Helms, a career man, who only recently was selected by President Johnson to take over as CIA Chief went to the Hill to apologize."

HELMS: "I was just simply saying it was a mistake to sign this letter. I realize it was a mistake, which I regret. And I've apologized."

REPORTER: "Did you draft the letter, sir?"

REPORTER: "What were the circumstances?"

FULBRIGHT: "Well, the letter was prepared by an assistant and was submitted to him along with a number of other personal letters, as distinguished from, you know, business letters -- you see, he's been recently appointed, and he simply signed it, as he said, without focusing upon the whole significance of it."

"The circumstances, as described by Mr. Helms certainly go a very long way to excuse a mistake, I mean, anybody can make a mistake, and I'm sure he's going to be very careful not to make another one of a similar nature."

REPORTER: "Senator Morse called for his resignation. Do you favor any move in that direction?"

FULBRIGHT: "I don't think I think it that drastic. And I believe he'll be very careful about these matters in the future."